

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2017

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The second album by Occidental Gypsy delivers social substance with original gypsy-fusion style.

## Quick Facts

- Occidental Gypsy's 2nd full-length album, *44070*, was independently released 1/11/2017
- The band tours nationally and are considered heirs of Django Reinhardt. They've played 200+ shows in 30 states. Invited to play largest Django Festival in US.
- Two of the instrumental songs are about historic events; "Vrba" is about an individual's heroics to save people from death in Nazi Germany. "Children's March" is about a Civil rights event in the US.
- Songs are acoustic, and include original instrumental and vocal compositions recognized in musicians circles as modern hot club jazz master works.
- Two songs are covers of Django Reinhardt favorites.
- The band has excellent reviews by Chicago Tribune, LA Times and dozens of other papers and musicians. See [www.occidentalgypsy.com/press](http://www.occidentalgypsy.com/press)
- Brothers Brett and Jeff Feldman founded the Gypsy-fusion band. Sounds founded in world-gypsy-jazz, but incorporate influences of folk, blues, klezmer, and Latin.
- Band member Eli Bishop, award-winning violinist prodigy who plays Jazz at Lincoln Center, has won a Guinness World Record for fastest clapping (featured in song "Messalina")

**Dr. Lonnie Smith says "I love Occidental Gypsy's new CD 44070.** The compositions and arrangements are uniquely creative. They perform with enormous heart and soul and have an original groove that is definitely worth checking out."

**David Bromberg says** "... great singing, fantastic guitar and violin work, with high energy originals that leave the crowd crazy. An awesome band."

**LA Times says** "...irresistible, a virtual definition of an era when jazz was often described as "hot" music. Occidental Gypsy's rhythm section, usually driven by the surging rhythm guitar of Brett Feldman, hit one irresistible rhythmic groove after another, "hot" was the best applicable adjective."

## 44070 - CD Description

Written by Brett Feldman and arranged by B.L. Feldman and Eli Bishop, the songs on the full-length album **44070 go far beyond the band's popular (pop-meets-gypsy cover music) roots.** This full-length release shoots complex, vibrant original songs into the music-sphere that are timeless and **culturally timely.**

Feldman's original compositions carry the mood of the album, and are complemented by tunes made famous by Django Reinhardt, and notable covers like "Over the Rainbow." The instrumental piece "Children's March" opens with a glockenspiel, and carries forward with prodigy Eli Bishop's moving violin. The song includes many percussive 'stops,' perhaps that reflect Feldman's feeling about the civil rights action by the same name. Liner notes (available for each song here: <https://soundcloud.com/occidental-gypsy-band/sets/44070-sampler-of-new-cd-by>) suggest Feldman's disgust at the Birmingham mayor's brutal actions at the time of the heroic de-segregationist's march. The song, he writes, also serves as an apology to the children personally affected.

**Title Track VRBA** "44070: Song for Vrba," has a multi-part arrangement that explores the story of a real-life hero, Rudolph Vrba. Vrba was able to escape despite numerous obstacles and make his way to Budapest. Instead of going into hiding (which was his safest choice), Vrba went to the Jewish Council and told them of the atrocities he witnessed and the tens of thousands of murders occurring daily. It is estimated that because of his actions, **Rudolph Vrba saved as many as 200,000 Hungarians and people the Nazis considered "not fit for life."**

The 5 minute instrumental piece is executed in a supremely tight "hot club, Django-inspired, gypsy fusion" style by a band who has spent the last decade playing to enthusiastic crowds at legendary jazz clubs, art houses and concert venues across the US. The title track was written, and is performed, in two distinct parts. The first part is titled "#44070," which was the number tattooed on Vrba's forearm in Auschwitz. While the entire piece is in memoriam to Mr. Vrba, this introductory segment honors all those who had been disfigured and dehumanized during the final solution. The second part of the song picks up the pace... still a bit sad and mysterious, but much faster and with greater instrumentation and verve. This part of the song **musically explores the challenges and drama of such a heroic escape.**

Having transformed from its early days as a gypsy swing cover band, "OG" still deftly reinvents well-known pieces like "I'll See You in My Dreams" and Django Reinhardt's "Tears." The album includes more of their own pop-influenced, well-traveled tunes. "Gypsy Blues (She's Back)" features the sultry vocals of Jeremy Frantz, to which The Chicago Tribune said there is "a heartfelt quality and reedy tone of Frantz's singing [that] disarmed listeners," and that "Frantz brought the large crowd to near silence through the warmth and openness of his singing."

# Occidental Gypsy's Lineup

Brett Lee Feldman, lead guitarist and primary composer/arranger of the music, building songs with traditional gypsy swing and folk feel.

Eli Bishop, whose Jazz at Lincoln Center appearances, youth and speed clapping (please see notes on original track "Messalina"), rouse their crowds into an emotional fervor. Bishop has co-producer credits and co-arranger credits on most songs.

Jeremy Frantz, formidable jazz guitarist, jazz educator, and primary vocalist

Jon Chapman, percussionist who readily adds inventive beats that move from eastern european to rock band gentility.

Jeff "JPhat" Feldman, who co-founded the band as bassist, and serves as executive producer and spiritual mentor for the band.

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## CD Credits:

44070 Produced By Eli Bishop, Brett Lee & Jeffrey (JFAT) Feldman. Production Consultant Eric Kilburn  
Eric Kilburn played on Childrens March. Evan Veenstra played on Vrba, Tonight, Childrens March, I'll See  
You in my Dreams, Messalina. Erick Cifuentes played on Tears. Recorded, mixed and mastered at  
Wellspring Studios, Acton Mass, December 2016. Cover art: Eli Bishop. Logo/PR EM Matteson

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## "44070" Track-by-Track (CD release date: 1/11/2017)

44070: Song For Vrba 4:43

Composed by Brett Lee Feldman, arranged by B.L. Feldman & Eli Bishop

Gypsy Blues (She's Back) 2:35

Composed by Scottie Kulman, arranged by Scottie Kulman & B.L. Feldman

A Day with Paula May 3:26

Composed by Brett Lee Feldman, arranged by B.L. Feldman & Eli Bishop

Children's March 4:15

Composed by Brett Lee Feldman, arranged by B.L. Feldman & Eli Bishop

I'll See You in My Dreams 3:04

Composed by Isham Jones, 1924

Live studio recording as a trio (Brett, Eli, Evan)

Messalina (Lover Lamb) 6:23

Composed by Brett Lee Feldman, arranged by B.L. Feldman & Eli Bishop

Featuring the current Guinness Book of World Record holder for fastest clapping, Eli Bishop

Tears 3:14

Composed by Django Reinhardt /Stéphane Grappelli. Live studio recording by OG of a Django Reinhardt classic.

Tonight 5:35

Composed by Brett Lee Feldman, Arranged by B.L. Feldman & Eli Bishop

Over the Rainbow 3:48

Composed by Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg, 1939